GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2101
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
DESTRUCTION TO MANGROVES IN MUMBAI
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various mangrove sites in Mumbai have been visited by the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details indicating the purpose and observations made in this regard;

(c) whether any complaints regarding destruction of mangroves in Mumbai have been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan prepared by the Government to save the mangroves in Mumbai ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) In pursuance of a complaint received, the Government deputed a team to visit a site at Survey No. 161 CTS No.1 of village Pahadi Goregaon (West) along Malad Creek in Mumbai to verify reported destruction of mangroves by M/s Usha Madhu Development Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., Mumbai.Preliminary findings of the team indicate that mangroves at this site have been destroyed. However, the team has observed that it would be difficult to indicate the time/period during which the destruction has taken place. Therefore a conclusive view would be possible only after the matter is examined with reference to the satellite imageries pertaining to the site in question from 1991 till date. Further the correctness of demarcation of High Tide Line for the site needs to be verified.

(e) For protection of coastal environment, the Government have issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 which, inter-alia, prohibits destruction of mangroves. Maharashtra State Coastal Zone Management Authority has been constituted to monitor and enforce the implementation of the CRZ Notification, 1991 and Maharashtra State Coastal Zone Management Plan. The Government has initiated a scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs. Based on the recommendations of the National Committee on Mangroves, nine mangrove areas in Maharashtra, namely, Achra/Ratnagiri, Devgarh, Vijay Durg, Veldur, Kundlika & Revdanda, Mumbra-Diva, Vaitarna River, Vasai- Manori Creek, Shreevardhan-Varal-Turumbadi & Kalsuri have been identified for intensive conservation. These include some of the stretches of Mumbai.